U.S. Coil Perfins: Some Observations

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For years I have put aside coil perfins believing that they eventually may prove scarcer than normal definitives with perfins. I have done the same separation for half-cent stamps and for non-denominated issues; the thought being that less need and usage for half-cent stamps and the dearth of companies perfinning recent issues.

There seems to be at least one exception to my theory. *The Catalog of United States Perfins* lists #C274 C(PD) as reported only through coil stamps. Perhaps one day I'll be fortunate to find this pattern through a regular issue and then I can further sanitize my main collection!

Former U.S. catalog editor Harry Rickard organized some coil checklists from 1983 to 1987. In his 1983 article, he reported only two 8½ perforated coils: B92 and D94. In his 1984 article, 270 known coil perfins were listed. In the last 1987 article, Rickard reports another 8½ perforated coil: P248.

It is not my intent to update the coil perfin checklist but rather to make a few observations.

Many of my coil perfin patterns are single copies, occasionally with one or two duplicates. I do have a significant number of I119I (I WILL). In fact, I lack a normal definitive with this perfin. The SFE (S121) also seems to be abundant.

It is apparent that vertical perforated coils in my collection outnumber the horizontal perforated ones about 15 to 1. Since I like to play with small numbers, I list here some additional 8½ perforated types and the few horizontal perforated coils that I own. Other members may wish to expand this list since mine is meager.

Perf	Cat #	Denom
Coils With Vertical Perforations*		
10	A270.10	2¢ Wash
8**	B12.7	Two cent Wash
10	B30	2¢ Wash
10	B86	2¢ Wash
8½	F94	2¢ Wash
10	F45	1¢ Wash
10	J115P	1, 1 ½ ,2¢ prexy
10	M132	3¢ Wash
10	N113B2	2¢ Wash 1922
10	O100	3¢ Wash
12	P199	One cent Frank
12	S215	Two cent Wash
12	S357	One cent Frank
10	U88	3¢ Wash
Coils With Horizontal Perforations*		
8½	C198.5	2¢ Wash
8½	N77	2¢ Wash
8½	N211	4¢ Wash
Coils from Rickard's articles: Not certain if they are horizontal or vertical		
8½	B92, D94, P248	
*All issues are the early Franklin and Washington unless otherwise noted. Determining Scott numbers is too frustrating for me. **Closer to an 8 than an 8½ possibly due to shrinkage		